

## **UID / RFID WORKING GROUP KICK-OFF MEETING 8 JANUARY 2004**

**1. General:** The UID / RFID Working Group Kick-off Meeting was conducted on 8 January 2004 from 0930-1100 in the Logistics Operations Center (LOC). The attendees list is provided as enclosure (1). In addition to those present, Ms. Debbie Whitley and Ms. Lisa Brown of HQ, DLA (Marine Corps Team) were teleconferenced in, but lost connectivity during the meeting. Future Working Group meetings will make use of the VTC capabilities in an effort to eliminate this problem. Also, Mr. Larry Davis (LOGCOM, Safety Office) and Mr. Len Fritz (LOGCOM, BICmd) were unavailable for the kick-off meeting, but will be permanent members of the Working Group, as will CWO3 Peterson and Mr. Bob Breton (LOGCOM, SCMC). The local representatives from DLA - DDAG, Maj Mark Campaigne, Mr. Al Rawls, and Ms. Pat Anderson, will be considered ad-hoc members and will be available to discuss issues relating to distribution. HQMC representatives Mr. Ricky Morton, Mr. Nick Linkowitz, and Maj Newsome will be cc'd on all correspondence relating to these topics.

**2. Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting was to establish a UID / RFID Working Group to begin addressing the efforts associated with the recently signed OSD policies regarding these two initiatives. Generally speaking, numerous issues and areas of concern were raised, and several on-going and/or planned efforts were briefly discussed, including the I MEF RFID initiative in support of OIF II, the proposed RFID pilot projects for BICmd, and the UID Process and Integration Evaluation being performed in concert with Penn State.

**3. Points of Interest/Issues/Discussion:** The discussions at this first Working Group meeting were wide ranging, and tended to raise more questions than were answered. (Thus, the need for the Working Group.) Specific topics were:

- A brief overview of the UID Process and Integration Evaluation being conducted with Penn State was presented. This is a joint effort between NAVSEA, NAVAIR and the USMC to evaluate the impact and the requirements of inserting parts marking technology into the repair depot processes. This project is expected to kick-off in early February, and depending on the discovery, may require a phased approach. POC is Mr. Greg Russell, LOGCOM, Maintenance Directorate.
- The question of how to determine where to mark parts was raised by Mr. Mike Barry. He suggested that the Equipment Specialist should be heavily involved in this process since they are in a position to know the best physical location for part marking without interfering with the form, fit, and function of the part itself. He also pointed out that special consideration must be given to electronic sensitive equipment.
- Our legacy IT systems aren't equipped currently to handle UID and/or RFID data. Although GCSS-MC is capturing these requirements for the retail systems (i.e., ATLASS, SASSY, MIMMS) it will be replacing, the wholesale systems are not being addressed at the present time. Mr. Eddie Watson also mentioned that funding for legacy IT systems will be eliminated in 2005 if those systems cannot accept UID's. There is also the issue of timing with regards to the implementation of GCSS-MC (FY 2006) and the timelines associated with the mandatory use of UID (January 2004) and RFID (January 2005).
- Technical Drawings will have to be modified, as well as other logistics data as appropriate, which is not only an expensive proposition, but also very time consuming.

- The Maintenance Centers must be resourced and equipped to accomplish this tasking (i.e., funding, training, possibility of additional facilities, etc.).
- Mr. Chris Berry pointed out that the grocery industry began tagging items 7 years prior to having the capability to read or store the related data in an IT system.
- It is thought that UID's will replace stock numbers as we know them today.
- The aviation community is moving out regarding these initiatives.
- DDAG currently has the capability to read, write and burn SAVI RFID tags. A unique identifier is placed on the tag to allow for tracking between depots.

#### 4. **Considerations/Key Points:**

- **Significant Issue:** A Program Office should be established to specifically address AIT, UID and RFID issues. Someone needs to be leading this effort (a central focal point) and be responsible for ensuring compliance with the OSD policy memos and monitoring implementation efforts. (Is there still an AIT PM Office at SYSCOM, formerly Maj Penrose?)
- **Significant Issue:** Follow-on guidance from HQMC, supplementing and further clarifying the guidance provided by OSD, is of utmost importance. This will provide a more narrow focus (Marine Corps specific) and will assist in establishing boundaries and expectations.
- **Significant Issue:** Legacy equipment will not likely meet the timelines established for program implementation due to the following evaluations, which must be performed for each UID application:
  - Substrate and component geometry to determine the most appropriate application technology (pin stamping, laser and chem etching can be damaging to selected substrates and can deform other parts). This results in a technical evaluation being required for virtually every mark.
  - Size and location of the mark.
  - Drawing changes.
  - Process insertion.
- **Significant Issue:** The SYSCOM PM's must be involved! The requirements associated with UID and/or RFID should come to LOGCOM through the acquisition documents and/or the SYSCOM PM's. They should be determining such things as where the mark should be placed on the part (through collaboration with the Equipment Specialists), how the part should be marked, the drawing changes required, and addressing the legacy equipment concerns (i.e., what is cost effective to mark and what isn't). The depots do not have the authority to make these decisions. Also, the type of marking and its durability should also be considered given the process some equipment goes through at the Maintenance Center (i.e., sanding, blasting, painting, etc.).
- **Significant Issue:** Interoperability is a must! Considerations should be given to the Joint environment we operate in when acquiring technology in support of these initiatives.
- Although the UID and RFID initiatives are very closely related, there are two separate tracks that need to be addressed: distribution and life cycle management.
- We should consider the on-going efforts of both the Army and TRANSCOM regarding RFID active tagging. We have an opportunity to take advantage of lessons learned and possibly realize economies of scale. Mr. Lawrence Herndon (LOGCOM, FSD) has additional information concerning this topic, however, the Department of the Army's RFID POC's are as follows:
  - PM AIT: Ms Ann Scotti, (703)339-4400 ext. 102
  - Logistician: Mr. John Waddick, (703)339-4400 ext. 110
  - Standardization IT Initiative: Mr. Lee Weaver, (703)339-4400 ext. 125

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Army, and TRANSCOM RFID Contractor: SAVI Technology
- DLA has joined forces with the Army on a couple of pilot projects that we could possibly learn from. Ms. Debbie Whitley (HQ, DLA) can provide more information.
- We need to determine what the necessities are to ensure we're complying with the signed policies.
- We should look at all possible sources of assistance and partnering opportunities (i.e., MIT and Georgia Tech have RFID labs).

## **5. Next Steps/Action Items:**

- A draft charter for this Working Group will be developed and staffed initially with the Working Group members the week of 20 January. A second Working Group meeting will be scheduled upon completion of the charter staffing. On the agenda for this second meeting will be signing the charter and assigning action officers to specific areas of concern, as appropriate.
- An AIT / UID / RFID link will be established on the LOGCOM website to enable the easy access of information related to AIT, UID, and/or RFID. Briefs and information presented at the Air Force hosted Parts Marking Symposium in St. Louis (December 2003) will be loaded. (<http://www.logcom.usmc.mil/uidrfidworkinggroup.asp>)
- Mr. Ricky Morton, HQMC (LPV), will be contacted in an effort to schedule a PME in the near future, hosted here at Albany, in which he provides information concerning UID and RFID (reference previous conversations between Mr. Ricky Morton and Mr. Mike Barry).
- HQMC, LPV will be contacted regarding the status of the RFID training being conducted at I MEF this month. SCMC, Maintenance Directorate, and PP&O had expressed an interest in attending during a December 2003 conference call with HQMC, LPV.
- HQMC will be contacted regarding the possibility of additional guidance and/or policy that may be forthcoming to further clarify the OSD signed UID and RFID policies. We need to understand the requirements and intent of HQMC in order to move out smartly in these endeavors.

# UID/RFID Working Group Kick-Off Meeting Attendees List

8 January 2004

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Enclosure 1